

REMARKS

The Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 11 to specify that the plasma ignition results in a gas plasma mixture with a flow rate of 0.1-200 sccm/min. Support is found in as-filed claim 11, which has been cancelled as redundant.

The Rejections under Section 103(a) over Koontz

Claims 1-3, 5, 9, 10, 13, 27-29, 33, 38, and 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Koontz (US 6,022,902). Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the plasma ignition results in a gas plasma mixture with a flow rate of 0.1-200 sccm/min. Claims 2-3, 5, 9, 10, 13, 27-29, 33, 38, and 39 are now dependent on a claim reciting allowable subject matter.

The Rejection Under Section 103(a) over Williams et al.

Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 22, 26-33, 38, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, and 49-54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Williams et al. (US 6,245,537).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 11 to specify that the plasma ignition results in a gas plasma mixture with a flow rate of 0.1-200 sccm/min. Claims 2-7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 22, 26-33, 38, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, and 49-54 are now dependent on a claim reciting allowable subject matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for identifying allowable subject matter in claims 8, 11, 12, 16-21, 23-25, 40, 42, 44, and 46. However, in view of the amendments set forth above, it is believed that all claims are allowable. Therefore, none of these claims have been

rewritten in independent form to incorporate all the limitations of the claims on which they depend.

Conclusion

This application appearing to be in condition for allowance, passage to issuance is respectfully requested. It is believed no fee is due with this response. If this is incorrect, please deduct the correct fee, and any fee required for any extension of time needed, from deposit account 07-1969.

Respectfully submitted,

/ellenwinner/

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